



Dear Parents/Carers,

We have made it through what usually feels like a very long January, but I honestly can't believe that February begins tomorrow! Despite the wet, windy and cold weather, everything has been running as usual in school with plenty of exciting learning experiences on offer for children **and** their parents/carers.

The introduction of an electronic booking system for parent/teacher consultation meetings seems to have gone smoothly, overall. Teachers will be asking for feedback at your 1:1 meeting. Please be honest if it hasn't been a positive experience for you. Hopefully, you will have noticed that the website calendar has been updated in response to your feedback last term. We have also included more detail to the year group curriculum newsletters so that you have all the information you need about what is going on in school. Please let us know if there is anything else you need.

As you know, we celebrate our community in so many ways. Moving forward, in the spirit of inclusion, I want to use the newsletter to shine a spotlight on various aspects of our community, e.g. culture, special needs, disabilities. However, I need your help to tell your story. Sharing your culture, needs and/or experiences with others can be powerful in breaking down barriers and increasing awareness and understanding amongst our community. If you would like to get involved in sharing your story with me, please do let me know.

Marie Ziane (Headteacher)

Communication Corner

Barking and Dagenham Strategy of the Month to improve Language and Communication

Copying your child's words or actions encourages communication by reinforcing their efforts, showing them that you are interested, and it teaches them that their communication is valued. It also supports early turn-taking skills.

Say what they say and do what they do. If your child says "car!" repeat "car!" back to them. If they babble "babadi," repeat "babadi." This imitation shows your child that their words and sounds are being heard and encourages them to keep communicating.



Fundraising/Whole School Events

Change4Change Team

In the December newsletter, we informed you that the Change4Change Team were busy counting donations from **Christmas Jumper Day**. The children were thrilled with your donations and helping them to raise another **£65.56** for Save the Children.

Their next fundraising efforts are taking place next week, linked to **Children's Mental Health Week**. Members of the team will be selling colouring -in sheets to children in Year 1 - 6 for 20p each. Children will be invited to colour in their sheets in the Change4Change Headquarters at lunchtimes throughout next week.

Travel Ambassadors



Our newly-formed, Travel Ambassador Team have been very busy, already! Their Road Safety Poster Competition attracted over 50 entries, giving us a difficult job in choosing an overall winner. The winner will be announced in the next newsletter.....watch this space!

School Achievement Update

We welcomed a visit from our Inclusion Quality Mark assessor on 14.1.2025 as part of our yearly monitoring visit. The feedback we received was very complimentary about our school and the support we provide to ensure we are meeting the needs of ALL learners.

We are pleased to let you know that we have maintained our Centre of Excellence status for another year!





Christmas provided a brilliant opportunity to engage with parents/carers at our Christmas Sing-a-Longs and the Christmas Fete. The visit from The Grinch was a wonderful example of parents and school, working in partnership in the best interests of our children.



Relationships and collaboration (pupils, parents and staff)



Although children at Becontree behave well, we are reviewing our Behaviour and Attitudes Strategy with teachers to ensure that it aligns with our vision and values. For example, **do our school systems value all children and provide the best support possible, when they need it?**

Our School Councillors are gathering the children's views, and we will also be seeking the views of parents/carers shortly.



Maths

Becontree Maths Ambassadors

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we now have six Maths Ambassadors. Some of you may have met them in our recent maths workshops. I would like to introduce you to Hashir, Amelia, Eliza, Parvati, Emaan and Ezra.



"I want to be a maths ambassador because I want to help other students to understand maths." Hashir

"I can help students by showing them images or telling them useful things they can remember." Eliza

Language and Communication/Oracy

Some wonderful practice has been observed in classrooms recently. Children are becoming more confident and skilful communicators and learning to get on with a range of other children - some of whom they would not usually spend much time with! This is due to random learning partners changing weekly and regular opportunities created by teachers for children to collaborate with one another. Teachers have high expectations for the quality of spoken language used in class and children have improved their ability to speak clearly, using extended sentences and creative vocabulary. Teachers can be heard modelling how to use good sentences and encouraging children to listen and respond to one another.

Research has shown that children need to know 95% of words in a reading text to ensure understanding! Teaching staff will be receiving further training this month to look at developing the range of **vocabulary** our children know.





Curriculum Highlights

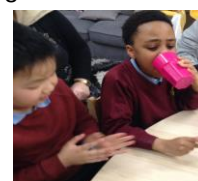
Trips

We are only a few weeks into the new term, but already a couple of year groups have been on some exciting trips. **Year 1** have been to the Victoria and Albert Museum. This is linked to their history topic on 'Toys'. Highlights of the day included the journey on the Elizabeth and Central line, the soft play construction area, as well as a dressing up area with a stage to perform on. Photos will be added to the website.



Year 4 have been walking in the local community to observe four religious buildings. St Vincent Catholic church, St Thomas church, Dagenham Masjid and the Church Pentecost. The aim was to find out what services they offer to the public, such as food banks and counselling services. The children also observed the unique features of the buildings and recorded times of prayer/worship.

In the **ARP**, children have enjoyed learning about superheroes. In cooking, they have worked together to make healthy superhero smoothies, to power them up for their next adventure!!



Road Safety Workshops

Linked to our 'Safer Travel' ambition, all children had opportunities last week to learn more about road safety. This was presented in the form of workshops where children discussed the Green Cross Code and safe ways and places to cross our busy roads. It is important that you continue to reinforce this further at home. Here is a helpful link with further information.

<https://www.roadwise.co.uk/schools/using-the-road/green-cross-code/>



Maths Workshops

It has been exciting to have many parents join us in our new Maths Workshops where parents are able to work alongside children and learn more about the way maths is taught in class. As it has been so successful, we will be looking at running more of these workshops in the Summer term





Language of the Term

The language of the term is **Pashto**.
Click the link below to learn some phrases and words in Pashto.

https://youtu.be/IF_qdOcdGB4?t=14



Online Safety

Age ratings exist to help protect your child, so we thought we'd provide you with a little reminder of some of the more popular apps that children are accessing.



Roblox



Fortnite



You Tube



Twitch



Discord



TikTok

It is important to note that whilst age ratings do allow you to see if something may be appropriate for your child, it is also important to review the content yourself to make an informed decision as to whether it is suitable for your child to access.

Sporting Update

It's been an exciting start to the Spring term regarding sports as we got to take some Year 2 children to a Cricket Festival. The festivals always provide our children with a fun and enjoyable sporting experience alongside other schools.



It's always so pleasing to see that so many children are staying on at sports related afterschool clubs. Afterschool clubs are a great way for our children to learn new skills or simply continue practising them.

Exciting news – Years 4, 5 & 6 had two enrichment mornings this week which focused on the sports of **fencing** and **archery**. Both are sports which are rarely played amongst our children so hopefully it will give them some first-hand experience!

Rights Respecting School Award

Children were introduced to their rights as a child in assembly last week.
The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) set out 42 rights that children have.
Here are some that the children learnt about:

- Be listened to
- Meet up with other children and join groups
- Be safe
- Go to school and get an education
- Be healthy and get the best possible health care

Why not ask your child what they remember from the assembly?





Message from our Governors

We currently have 2 Parent Governor vacancies. Parent Governors are nominated and elected by you, our parent/carers. Accompanying this newsletter is a letter, which gives more information on the nomination process.

Key dates are:

31/1/2025 Request for nominations letter sent out
24/2/2025 Deadline for receipt of nominations
28/2/2025 Ballot papers issued, and voting begins
14/3/2025 Ballot closes
17/3/2025 Count conducted (within 4 days)

Parent Partnership

First, a big thanks to all **parents/carers** who offer their time to support on school trips. Your support is much appreciated; we could not do it without you.

We are currently running our **ESOL** class which happens every Thursday morning. These classes are for parents and carers who have English as a second language. The class is free so please do come along if you would like to improve your English.

Indian Head Massage – Wednesday 5th February at 9.15 a.m.

An expert from the Adult college will teach you how to relieve stress and anxiety by learning the art of Indian Head Massages.

Stay Calm during Assessments – Tuesday 11th February at 9.15 a.m.

In this workshop, you will learn how to help your child cope with any stress they may be feeling in the run up to school assessments such as the SATs exams and/or moving to Secondary school.

This workshop is probably more useful for parents and carers of children in Years 5 and 6 but everyone is still welcome.

Please see the school website for more information.

WHAT'S NEXT?



Coming Soon

Parent Teacher Consultation Week
3rd, 5th and 6th February



Children's Mental Health Week

3rd -7th February



Safer Internet Day
11th February



Parent Workshops

Tuesday 4th March 2025
2:00p.m.

Communication and Language workshop for parents/carers of children in Four Seasons ARP or the Zen Dens.

it's good to talk

PEEP sessions continue every Friday from 9:15-10:15 a.m. for Nursery parents.

Remember to check out the **Themes and Events Overview** for other activities next term.

Polite Reminders

Ordering School Meals

Avoid any confusion for your child and order from home on app.schoolgrid.co.uk. All food is freshly prepared. Why not view our menu on the school website.

<https://www.becontreeprimaryschool.com/school-menuschool-grid/>

Lost Property

We have lots of items that are lost in school and never claimed. Sometimes, thick winter coats are left unclaimed! If you think your child might have lost something, please ask at the office to check our Lost Property box.